

Dear Superintendents, Principals, and Educators,

As part of the Idaho Math Initiative, all elementary teachers, secondary math teachers, and administrators are required to complete three credits of mathematics professional development. Three sections of a course titled Mathematical Thinking for Instruction have been created: one for grades K-3; one for grades 4-8; and one for grades 6-12. Each of the sections is worth three credits. Teachers and administrators are expected to complete one of them by the year 2015 for re-certification. For more information about re-certification requirements or the Idaho Math Initiative, please visit www.sde.idaho.gov.

The MTI courses will focus on how students successfully learn math. These courses are designed to support teachers by educating them about the latest research on how children learn mathematics and how to effectively teach mathematics.

Below are descriptions of the courses that will be offered in your area for the upcoming spring semester.

The application deadline for the courses being offered in the Spring of 2009 is **December 1, 2008**. Please see the applications for details about class dates and times.

Mathematical Thinking for Instruction Course (MTI) Grades K-3, 3 credits

This course provides an opportunity to study fundamental mathematical theory underlying the content area of number and operation and student reasoning of number and operation topics. Topics will include child cognitive development, early numeracy, issues of number, meanings of operations and how they relate to one another, and computation within the number system as a foundation for algebra. Emphasis will be given to developing ideas of student mathematical development, increasing participants' content knowledge, and instructional practices that promote student understanding of mathematics.

Mathematical Thinking for Instruction Course (MTI) Grades 4-8, 3 credits

This course provides an opportunity to study fundamental mathematical theory underlying the content area of number and operation and student reasoning of number and operation topics. Topics will include number systems, ways of representing numbers, meanings of operations and how they relate to one another, and computation within the number system as a foundation for algebra. Emphasis will be given to developing ideas about multiplicative thinking and proportional reasoning.

Mathematical Thinking for Instruction Course (MTI) Grades 6-12, 3 credits

This course provides an opportunity to study fundamental mathematical theory underlying the content area of number and operation and structures of algebraic thinking. Topics will include working with qualitative and quantitative change and the need to describe and predict variation, the use of mathematical models and the understanding student thinking. Emphasis will be given to developing ideas about algebraic reasoning.

For more information, please visit the Idaho State Department of Education at www.sde.idaho.gov or visit the Initiative for Developing Mathematical Thinking website at <http://dmt.boisestate.edu>.

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